

## **Galiano Up-Close, What Do You Value?**

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Galiano is part of the island archipelago that stretches from Georgia Strait down into Puget Sound. It is surrounded by the burgeoning urban centres of Vancouver, Seattle and Victoria. Like most of the larger islands in the region, logging and development have strongly influenced the landscape. Despite this, Galiano has managed to retain its rural character and much of its natural splendor. Protection of Galiano's natural and human communities was the focus of the Galiano Up-Close project, which fused detailed science-based mapping and ecology with community-held values and vision. Public participation in landscape level mapping of natural and modified areas on the island raised awareness and contributed to a sense of local ownership and trust in the resulting information. The maps were used locally through a series of workshops where members of the community focused on each of the island's major ecosystem types and determined a set of associated community held values. Participants then developed strategies for protecting these values aided by the landscape mapping and information provided by experienced resource people. The maps, ecology, values and strategies were synthesized into a community-based planning document that will aid future decision making and stewardship.